

**To:** Hartman - DNR, Todd[todd.hartman@state.co.us]  
**Cc:** Ginny Brannon[Ginny.Brannon@state.co.us]  
**From:** Mylott, Richard  
**Sent:** Thur 8/6/2015 6:24:32 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Rich - FYI from over here

Thanks, Todd. Here's our statement, expecting update later.

### **August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release**

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

**From:** Hartman - DNR, Todd [mailto:todd.hartman@state.co.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 12:22 PM  
**To:** Mylott, Richard

**Cc:** Ginny Brannon

**Subject:** Rich - FYI from over here

Rich, want to keep you in the loop on how we're addressing Q's specific to our shop. this came from Jesse Paul at the DPost:

Hi Jesse - This is a turn-of-the-century (19th-to-20th-century) era mine. It was permitted again in 1986, but never produced in the modern era and its permit was revoked in 2005.

On Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 11:33 AM, Jesse Paul <[jpaul@denverpost.com](mailto:jpaul@denverpost.com)> wrote:

Thanks, Todd. Can you say when this mine was abandoned? How long was it in operation?